

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	North Korea	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Schools in P'yongyang	DATE DISTR.	✓ September 1955	
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DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information		

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. Schools in P'yongyang, like all schools in North Korea, in May 1955 were under the direct control of the Ministry of Education of the national government. Five years of elementary schooling and three years of middle school training were compulsory in North Korea.
2. The school year prior to October 1953 was divided into three sessions, but by a decision of the Educational Reform Committee in early 1954 the school year consisted of four sessions as follows:
 - a. 1 September to 25 October,
 - b. 1 November to 30 January,
 - c. 1 March to 25 April, and
 - d. 1 May to 31 July.
3. A shortage of classroom space in P'yongyang schools, necessitated the staggering of school hours. At the First High School, elementary and middle-school students attended classes from 0800 hours until 1200 hours; high school students attended classes from 0800 hours until 1700 hours. A class period usually lasted 45 minutes and was followed by a 5-minute recess. Elementary-school students had five classes a day. Middle- and high-school students had six classes a day and 4 hours instruction on Saturdays. After classes were completed for the day, all students gathered on the playground for physical exercises.
4. The third-year pupils in P'yongyang middle schools were taught the following subjects:
 - a. Literature, mostly Korean classics
 - b. Algebra¹
 - c. Geometry¹

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- d. Chemistry¹
- e. Physics¹
- f. Chinese classics
- g. Russian language
- h. Physical training
- i. Korean language and history
- j. Occidental History, the Middle Ages
- k. Geography and the North Korean Constitution.

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The geography course included the topography, climate, agriculture, industry, and population of North Korea. The course in North Korean Constitution consisted of a series of lectures outlining the rights and duties of citizens. Elective courses not subject to regular periodical examinations included drawing, manual training, and drafting. During these classes a model glider was once built.

5. Middle- and high-school students had two examinations scheduled about fifteen days before the end of each school session. One test was called the End of Session Examination, which was compiled and graded by the teachers. A passing grade was necessary on this test in order to be eligible for the second examination, which was compiled by delegates from the Ministry of Education and the North Korean political parties. This test was called the State Examination and a grade of 3 had to be attained for promotion. These examinations were brought to the classes by monitors who supervised the test and returned the papers to the Ministry of Education for grading.
6. School fees differed according to the status of the individual. First-class students, the sons and the daughters of deceased patriots who fought against the Japanese or who rendered great service to the North Korean government, and members of households that included five or more students, paid no fees. Second-class students, the sons and the daughters of public servants, were assessed 5 won monthly in the high schools. Third-class students, the sons and the daughters of ordinary citizens, paid 10 won monthly in the elementary schools, 20 won monthly in the middle schools, and 40 won monthly in the high schools.
7. All schools were closely affiliated with the Boy Scouts and the Democratic Youth League (DYL)². Elementary school children became members of the Boy Scouts; middle- and high-school students became members of the DYL upon admission to the school. Each class selected a committee to represent it in the DYL. Each school was usually represented in the DYL by a committee. General conferences of the school organization of the DYL were held about twice yearly, usually when some troublesome problem needed to be brought to the attention of the student body. One such conference was called when a fellow student was accused of reading a romantic novel by the noted reactionary author, IM Hwa (2651/0735). This charge was debated by the student body, and a resolution was passed that none of them would read such novels. This subject typifies the kind considered most suitable for student debates. Class meetings of the DYL were more frequent;

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
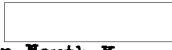
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the following subjects were discussed: absenteeism, tardiness, sufficient reasons for leaving schools, more concentrated study, collection of scrap iron and other useable materials by the student body. All members of the DYL are assessed 2 won monthly.

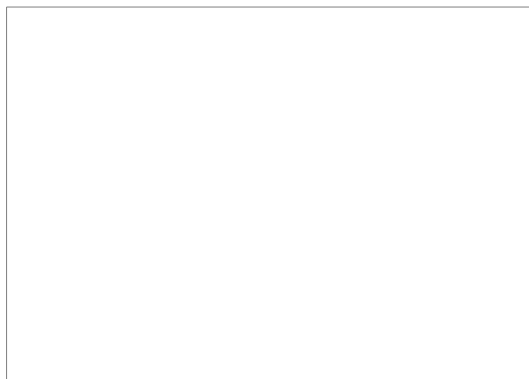
1.  Comment. Translations of Russian textbooks were used in the teaching of these subjects.

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2.  Comment.  for information concerning the organization of Boy Scouts in North Korea.

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